

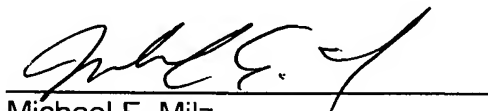
- - REMARKS - -

Claims 1-107 are currently pending in the application. No amendments have been made by this response.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has issued a restriction requiring Applicants to elect a single invention. In particular, the Examiner has asserted that the claims are directed to two separate inventions: 1) Claims 1-30 and 53-84, drawn to a medical apparatus and method for cytology collection including a needle and stylet; and 2) Claims 31-52 and 85-107, drawn to a drawn to a medical apparatus and method for cytology collection including an endoscope containing a transducer adapted to emit ultrasound waves. In response to the invention restriction, Applicants elect to prosecute claims 1-30 and 53-84, drawn to a medical apparatus and method for cytology collection including a needle and stylet.

In the outstanding Office Action, the Examiner has also issued a restriction requiring Applicants to elect a single species from the list of seven (7) separate species identified on page 4 of the Office Action. In response to the species restriction, Applicants elect to prosecute the claims relating to Species (I), drawn to a collection device comprising a brush. It is believed that claims 1-21, 25-29, 53-75 and 79-83 are related to the elected species. Applicants therefore elect to prosecute claims 1-21, 25-29, 53-75 and 79-83 with respect to the elected species. Contrary to the assertion of the Examiner, at least claims 1 and 53 are generic to all of the species.

Respectfully submitted,



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